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"TOMORROW IN CUBA."

Former Wellington Man Writes Entertainingly on the Subject.

Charles M. Pepper, son of Rev. Geo. W. Pepper, both of whom were residents of Wellington nearly 30 years ago, has written one of the most thoughtful books on Cuba that has appeared since the Spanish war.

Mr. Pepper went to Cuba as a newspaper correspondent in 1897. With the exception of the short intermission passed with the American army and navy outside the island, he was there throughout the most critical period. His book is not only a repository of facts that seem authoritative, but he, more than most writers of books of this class, seems able to use his facts. Mr. Pepper has the philosophic temperament of the careful student of economic and political conditions and his book is much more than mere newspaper correspondence. The first third of the book is historical, showing briefly, but comprehensively, the events that led up to autonomy and the causes that made autonomy a failure. It is by far the most intelligent book on the subject that I have seen and is written with much more fairness, both to Spaniards and Cubans, than we have seen accustomed to in recent books about Cuban affairs. Then follows a careful study of present day conditions from the standpoint of political government, the condition of the colored race, the relation of the Spanish colony, now aliens in their own home; the probabilities of immigration and colonization with a consideration of the sugar and tobacco interests, trade and taxation and internal improvements. The religion, politics and morality of the island each have thoughtful chapters and there is a forecast to conclude.

It is impossible in a brief space to give an outline of a book so full of meat and even an outline would lack the convincing quality of Mr. Pepper's writing. The colored race will always be a strong element in Cuban life and the color line can not be drawn in the slightest degree. There is no reason in this to expect that there will be any considerable influx of negroes from the United States. A large Spanish element who are best fitted for the island life will probably cast lots with the Cubans, but the majority will continue their allegiance to Spain. With the establishment of a stable government Havana in time should equal in size and importance the metropolis of Brazil. Cuba will always be, however, an agricultural country and this suggests the greatest need of the island—farm labor, so largely depleted by the process of reconcentration. It is not probable that American farm hands will seek employment in the cane fields of Cuba. That labor will have to come from the blacks and the Spanish peasantry who come to stay and not merely for temporary residence. Americans who go to Cuba will not be content with such a low grade of employment. The necessary increase in railroad building may furnish employment for immigrants who eventually may settle down as part of the agricultural class. So far as the morality of the island is concerned, it is no more fair to consider the excesses of Havana life as representative than it is to regard the adventures and ruff-raff from America that have swept like a cloud upon Cuba since the military occupation as representative of a healthy life in our own country.

"When the custom-house passed under American control it was broken from the United States who went about whispering their ability to keep up the old fraudulent practices in new ways: American firms were the first ones caught in actual smuggling: American strumpetry drove through the streets of Havana in blazoned coaches and proclaiming its presence: American drunkards also reeled through the streets of a city in which drunkenness was so rare as to be a genuine novelty. Havana saw more drunkenness in the six months following American occupation than it had seen in sixty years. American gamblers sought to dispute by new devices the lean pickings of the gaming table with the native gamblers," and so for quantity. No wonder that "American military control was necessary to protect the island from American harpies."

Mr. Pepper thinks that while the overwhelming majority of Cuban people are not thinking of early annexation, they are not in a hurry to annex themselves either. "And when annexation does come, if ever, it must be in the shape of statehood, territorial government would never be tolerated by the Cubans. For this reason,"

destiny can wait a quarter of a century," and for this reason, says the writer, "moral control and this lien on the customs and the guarantee of Cuba's protection from European aggression is for years to come all that is desirable." The working out of Cuba's destiny is for the Cubans themselves. Their hope is to have the country populated by small land owners. The labor looked for is not servile or cheap. The immigration sought is the immigration of the family from sources which give promise of constant freshening. [Published by Harper & Bros., New York.]

PENFIELD.

Rev. W. L. Denslow, pastor of the Congregational church, on Sunday morning next, December 31, will preach on the following theme, "A Great Door, or The Dawn of the Twentieth Century." We hope our people will turn out and give him an audience worthy his subject and his best efforts. Mr. Denslow is still quite a young man, but he is an earnest, persistent worker, and his sermons are well worth hearing and remembering.

The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Johnson, formerly of Penfield, was celebrated at the pleasant home of their daughter, Mrs. Volney McRoberts, in Pittsfield, December 13. Guests were present from a number of outlying townships. Among them were Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Starr, Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Wilson, Mrs. E. G. Dayton and Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Taylor, all of this place. Among the presents were \$20 in gold, some silver, and a goodly number of other articles. After a bountiful repast was served, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson returned thanks to all assembled, and the gathering broke up by uniting their voices in the sweet old hymn, "God be with you 'till we meet again."

Mrs. Neil McConaughy has had her Christmas joys largely increased by the arrival of her brother, from Michigan. The Christmas tree and entertainment was a complete success, and presents fairly rained down on the happy recipients, of whom we regret to say, ourself was not among the fortunate number. Boo-hoo.

Mrs. A. H. Hastings, organist of the Congregational church, was rendered happy by the presentation to herself by the ladies of the church, of a very handsome rocking chair.

A number of young ladies were presented with a numerous family of candy infants, sufficient to stock a "Sweetie shop" if appearances count.

The Christmas entertainment at the M. E. church on Sunday evening, was also a success and superbly engineered and conducted to a successful finish by Mrs. W. B. Lindsey and her father, Willard Hart. The programme ran "thrusty" as nearly as we could understand. First on the tapis was a song Christmas Bells By Choir Prayer By Rev. Long Recitation A Hearty Welcome Song Wonderful Story By S. S. Bible Reading By Rev. Long Recitation Christmas Day Fred Burgman Duet Gabrielle and Wilbur Newcomb Recitation Christmas Carl Long Recitation Julia Bentle Song Peace on Earth By S. S. Recitation I Don't Believe in Santa Claus Harry Van Recitation Leona Bartlett Song Happy Christmas Primary class Recitation Marion Newcomb Recitation My Baby Brother Mamie Andrews Duet Viola and Clara Newcomb Recitation Law of Love Teresa Burgman Song Glory in the Highest By S. S. Recitation Nellie Behnke Song The Angel Chorus Class Recitation Minerva Bartlett Song Jesus Has Come Class Recitation Nels Nelson's Christmas Margie Sooy Song Under the Snow Marian and Dottie Lindsey Song and Chorus Primary Class Recitation The Day Before Christmas Georgia Andrews Song Sweet Is the Story S. S. Recitation Dottie Fox Song When Christ was Born Choir Recitation Christmas Joys Homer Long Finale—Song Joy to the World By Choir

In concluding our very poor report of what was really a very interesting affair we would say that everything moved off nicely, and the singing was finely rendered. Mrs. W. B. Lindsey and her two little daughters, being especially noted as being always at the head. Miss Carrie Krebs deserves much praise for her successful manipulation of the organ, while all taking part did themselves credit.

At the Congregational entertainment, Miss Fannie Foote "took the cake" away from all competitors in the singing line, while the tiny twins, Masters Stanley and Miles Denslow came out far ahead in speaking. Mrs. Dett of Creston, is the guest of her youngest daughter, Mrs. A. H. Hastings, of Penfield. She will probably remain through the holidays, at least. W. W. Penfield is reported as mending quite fast. Mrs. Peter Deahum, of Vermont St. died on Friday evening last, the 22nd inst at six o'clock. Her sickness was one of long duration, covering a part of

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Death of Cyrus F. Houghton.

Monday of last week word came to Wellington relatives that he was very sick, had been ill for a fortnight, and was failing. Friday afternoon a telephone message said he could not survive the night and Saturday another gave the information that he had died at midnight. Funeral services were held at his home, 290 South Professor street, Oberlin, Sunday at two o'clock. He was well known in Wellington, through his long connection with J. W. Houghton's store and business, and was universally respected and beloved.

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